

four of the seats and votes were given to ecclesiastics, and under the clerical influence many beneficent regulations were passed in behalf of the Indians.

They are legion, the priests whose names have been kept on record as benefactors of the Indian race. We have already named a few. In addition we shall only mention Martin de Valencia, Ramirez de Fuendal, Marroquin de la Gasca, St. Francis Solanus. We cannot suffer to pass without some reference the work done by the Jesuits in Paraguay and Argentina. Who has not heard of the Reductions of Paraguay, where the Indians under the wise direction of Catholic priests formed self-governing communities that may be proposed as the ideal government. Although under the suzerainty of Spain, no Spaniard was allowed within its confines without the sanction of the Jesuit Fathers; and if, today, the Indians in Paraguay have relapsed into a barbarous state, it is because the decrees of a Pombal drove away the guardians and counsellors that made of the Guaranis, once the most retrograde tribe of South America, the most contented nation in the world.

We have so far touched but lightly upon the subject of Catholic Missions and Missionary enterprises among the tribes of Central and South America: to render full justice to the subject is beyond the scope of this essay, and many things should have been said in fuller vindication of the Spanish Friars who in the paper alluded to seemed to be the main point of attack. It is sufficient to say that of all those who have stood by the side of the Indian the Catholic Priest has been prominent and his influence has gone a great way to confer lasting benefits upon the Indian race. If few vestiges remain of a people once happy as long as the Church exercised its beneficent sway upon its various tribes, the blame is to fall upon their civil governments who, through jealousy and the rapacity of unscrupled *politicians*, despoiled the pastors and scattered the flock. California can show the magnificent